

BRIEFS

IT'BURG KEYBOARD FEST RESCHEDULED

The Area Keyboard Festival that was to be held at Peter Harvey Church, Petal, on the original date of January 26 and then was rescheduled due to tornado recovery efforts, has been moved to Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, on February 23, from 8:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Wvody South in the church music department or the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 292-3272 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 272. E-mail: wsouth@mbc.org. The address for Main Street Church is 11 Main Street Blvd., off U.S. Highway 98 in Lamar County.

PRO-LIFE SUPPORTERS RALLY IN 45 STATES

COLUMBIA, Mo. (BP) — Pro-life demonstrators held a rally Feb. 17 at more than 223 Planned Parenthood clinics in 45 states to advocate withdrawing government funds from America's largest abortion provider. Meanwhile, a petition drive led by Southern Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville has garnered nearly 8,000 signatures on a letter asking Congress to support the budget resolution that defunds Planned Parenthood and redirects funding to federally qualified health centers. The \$563 million that Planned Parenthood receives from state and federal governments annually represents 43% of its budget.

SCHOOL CHASTISED FOR INJURY PRAYER

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (BP) — The Hamilton County Department of Education in Tennessee will provide additional training to its employees on the application of the U.S. Constitution's Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause, according to the school system's attorney, after a special interest group, the Freedom From Religion Foundation in Madison, Wis., complained of a Southern Baptist pastor's impromptu prayer test fall over a high school football player who appeared to have suffered a paralyzing injury.

Texas church holding CP contributions

PLANO, Texas (BP and local reports) — A prominent Dallas-area Southern Baptist megachurch has decided to temporarily escrow their Cooperative Program (CP) contributions in order to evaluate the church's future support of controversial causes undertaken by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities.

At issue are what the congregation of Prestonwood Church in the Dallas suburb of Plano calls "various significant positions taken by the leadership of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission that do not reflect the beliefs and values of many in the Southern Baptist Convention,"

according to a statement the church released to the Baptist Message, news journal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria.

The church will escrow what would amount to one million dollars annually, the

see TEXAS on p. 6



GRAHAM



MOORE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board recently elected officers for the coming year. Chosen to serve were (from left) Bill Hurt, senior pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus, vice-chairman and chairman-elect; Liz McGraw, member of Woodville Church, Woodville; and Randy Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, chairman. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Platt regrets mosque brief

ONTARIO, Calif. (BP) — International Mission Board (IMB) president David Platt has apologized for the Southern Baptist missionary-sending entity's involvement in a federal lawsuit amicus brief it joined last May in support of a New Jersey's Islamic society's attempt to build a mosque in that state.

That controversial decision has already resulted in the resignation of one IMB trustee in protest, and at least two churches deciding to withhold Cooperative Program contributions.

"I apologize to Southern Baptists for how distracting and divisive this has been," Platt said Feb. 15 during the annual meeting of Baptist state newspaper editors in Ontario, Cal.

"I apologize to Southern Baptists for how distracting and divisive this has been. I can say with full confidence, that in the days ahead, IMB will have a process in place to keep us focused on our primary mission..."

David Platt, IMB president



"I can say with full confidence, that in the days ahead, IMB will have a process in place to keep us focused on our primary mission: partnering with churches to empower limitless missionary teams for evangelizing, discipling, planting, and multiplying healthy churches, and training leaders among unreached

peoples and places for the glory of God," he told the editors.

Platt offered a similar apology to the annual meeting of executive directors of Baptist state conventions, who met in the same location.

The apologies occurred amid ongoing discussion of an amicus curiae brief —

see PLATT on p. 6

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

A second chance

When I read that Norma McCorvey died of heart failure on Feb. 18, I paused to pray. Norma was the real woman behind the *Roe v. Wade*, which the U.S. Supreme Court used in 1973 to legalise human infanticide from coast to coast and for all nine months of gestation.

She was the woman who permitted herself to be used by dark, pro-abortion forces to give the nine heavy male justices then occupying the Supreme Court an excuse to rule in favor of the unrestrained destruction of the fruit of generations to come.

She was the person who gave those nations the opportunity to pull out of them all the unborn children that were born in the laughter of medical schools across the country and to hand to every woman who has ever carried a child to term.

She paved the way for the tiny, mangled bodies of 60 million (and counting) babies to be sent to the city dump like so much trash, or turned into ash in commercial incinerators behind abortion clinics, or simply ground up in common garbage disposals in the alleys of the clinics. They are just gone. They never had names and never knew love.

Norma's action has infected millions of mothers and fathers with post-abortion guilt and depression, and makes the arms ache of untold numbers of grandmothers and grandfathers who only want to hold their precious grandchildren — a pain many of them will never be able to overcome.

Her successful lawsuit has resulted today in the valuable organs of aborted babies being ripped from their bodies without anesthesia while they are still twitching and gasping for breath on the cold metal dissection tables in the back rooms of abortion clinics.

She ripped out the heart of the country and turned friend against friend, and seemed proud of her role in the American Holocaust she sparked as she traveled the country defending it for years.

Then a miracle took place. A little girl struck up a friendship with Norma while the girl was protesting abortion with her father outside the Dallas abortion clinic where Norma worked. Unafraid of the imposing, hard-bitten woman standing in front of her, the little girl persistently shared the story of Jesus with Norma whenever she could.

Through the efforts of that little girl and others, Norma accepted Christ and was baptized in 2005. Now a confessed follower of the Lord and Savior, the weight of her sin and the wrongfulness of her involvement with *Roe v. Wade* weighed heavily on her spirit. She joined the pro-life movement and once again began speaking out around the country, this time against the mass destruction and devastation she helped create and worked so hard to perpetuate.

She even filed a lawsuit to strike down *Roe v. Wade*. A federal judge threw it out early in the process, but that didn't deter her from her appointed rounds as a champion for the right of unborn children to experience life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

What an extraordinary life was led by Norma McCorvey, a life filled almost from the beginning with exploitation, sadness, and rejection, to which she responded with substance abuse, sexual improprieties, and eventual involvement in the worst evil ever wrought on this country.

Yet she still found Christ, and the Father still accepted her (Luke 15:11-24). We serve an awesome God.

My prayer? I thanked God for giving Norma a second chance, because I know He has given me a second chance. I thanked Jesus for saving Norma, because it means there's hope for a wretch like me. I expressed my gratitude for the Holy Spirit that stirred in her and sits in me. I asked for the boldness of a little child to share the Gospel without fear, and fight for the innocents being led to death whenever and wherever it is needed.

It's what we've been called to do (Proverbs 24:11). Let's get started.

Forget the sandbags

"Could it be that the best way to fight the flood is to stop fighting the flood?" asked author Rod Dreher during the Gheens Lectures Feb. 7-8 at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"That is, to quit piling up sandbags in a doomed effort to hold back the rising waters, and instead to build an ark in which to shelter until the water recedes and we can put our feet on dry land again," said the senior editor of *The American Conservative* magazine in Washington, D.C.

"Rather than wasting energy and resources fighting unwinnable political battles, we should instead work on building communities, institutions, and networks of resistance that can outwit, outlast, and eventually overcome the cultural forces sweeping Christianity away in the West.

"If we are going to be for the world as Christ meant for us to be, we are going to have to spend more time away from the world, in deep prayer and substantial spiritual training — just as Jesus retreated to the desert to pray before ministering to the people."

Dreher said he does not mean a type of Christianity that would "head for the hills and build a bunker," but Christians should not continue as if they live in "normal times" nor look to political figures for hope.

Instead, believers should form and feed communities of faith, helping them grow into resilient bastions of an ancient kind of Christianity, he pointed out.

"One way or the other, all of us Christians today have to go back to our common roots and recover the sacramental ontology [nature] of the early church," he observed.

This strategy does not restrict evangelism, he said, as the church is still responsible for making disciples, baptizing, and teaching.

Dreher, an Eastern Orthodox Christian, said the popular style of evangelism must change if Christians are going to be effective at fulfilling the Great Commission.



Guest opinion
with Rod Dreher

"We happen to live in a time and a place in which argumentation — that is, rational disputation — is not the most effective way to preach the Gospel. This is not to say that we shouldn't be prepared to give reasoned arguments for why we believe what we believe. It is to say, however, that people whose way of thinking is determined by emotivism... are not likely to be persuaded by propositions and syllogisms.

"We need to expand our idea of what evangelism is. We need to learn not only to tell people what life in Christ is about but also to show them. To do that, we need to do a much better job of embodying our faith.

"Praying the sinner's prayer is only a beginning of the Christian life, not its end. If the only thing we have to share with the world is a pot of message, we will fail."

One of the enemies of Christianity is the notion that there is no objective divine order or logos to creation — a distinctly modern idea that buttresses Western culture, Dreher said. Drawing on sociologist Christian Smith's concept of Moral Therapeutic Deism, Dreher argued that even religious people in the West fashion a god who "looks a lot like themselves."

Believers can counter this view by living ordered, disciplined, and God-ward lives in community, he said.

Dreher's lecture appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Audio and video of the Gheens Lectures at Southern Seminary will be available online at equip.shts.edu. Edited for length.

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Did Baptists perform two presidential baptisms?

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — Just in time for the passing of Presidents' Day 2017 earlier this week, claims that George Washington and Abraham Lincoln both underwent secretive baptisms by immersion have drawn scrutiny from Baptist historians.

Washington is said to have received baptism from army chaplain John Gano, a Baptist, during the Revolutionary War, while both Baptists and members of the Stone-Campbell tradition have claimed Lincoln sought and received baptism by immersion.

Immersion claims about both presidents have received a mixed reception from historians.

George Washington

Stories about Washington being immersed were popularized in a 1926 essay by Baptist minister Le-muel Barnes published in the Bulletin of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

America's first president supposedly came to believe immersion was the biblical mode of baptism and wanted to obey Christ's command. As "direct evidence" for the baptism, Barnes cited testimony from the Gano family presented in sworn affidavits some 100 years after the baptism was said to have taken place.

John Gano purportedly told three of his children about the baptism. Those children, in turn, relayed the tradition to other family members who later made published statements. In one instance, the published statement is five people removed from John Gano.

Barnes also cited "circumstantial evidence" for the baptism, including Washington's "good opinion" of Baptists and the fact some in Washington's Episcopal denomination believed immersion was the biblical mode of baptism.

Baptist historian Terry Wolever, editor of Particular Baptist Press in Springfield, Mo., stated in the 2012 edition of his John Gano biography, "I have seen no convincing argument to date that would justify an outright dismissal of the overall testimony of the original affidavits in support of the baptism."

The scarcity of evidence for the baptism, Wolever noted, may be explained by Washington's alleged desire to keep it a secret. An 1889 affidavit by Gano's granddaughter Margaret Ewing stated that Washington, "for prudent reasons did not desire that his baptism should be made public."

Wolever speculated that Gano may have been honoring Washington's wish when he made no mention of the baptism in his Biographical Memoirs. Absence of any reference to the event in Washington's personal papers also may have been intentional, Wolever argued.

Tom Nettles, a retired historical theology professor at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and a Mississippi native, told Baptist Press (BP) it is possible Gano baptized Washington.

"I don't believe [Lincoln's] baptism story...

Looking beyond the surface, it is significant to note that some people want to believe it. It affords some kind of validity or affirmation [of Baptist views]. That was especially important in the early to mid-19th century."

Keith Harper

senior professor of Baptist studies at Southeastern Seminary

"Though several relevant questions can be posed concerning the reliability of [the] reports," Nettles said in written comments, the tradition of Washington's baptism "should not be dismissed as a pious fraud invented by someone with ulterior motives."

The baptism account "would certainly be consistent with the piety and convictions of Gano, his position as a chaplain in the Revolutionary army, Washington's admiration of him, and the possible conviction of Washington, held by some ministers of the Episcopal Church, that not sprinkling but immersion was biblical baptism," Nettles said.

Keith Harper, senior professor of Baptist studies at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., told BP the absence of the baptism from Gano's memoirs leads him to doubt it occurred. Claims of a Washington immersion likely were among "numerous efforts made during the early 19th century to make Baptists look more credible in the eyes of the general public," he observed.

As evidence against the Washington immersion tradition, some cite the published view of the Philadelphia Baptist Association in which Gano was a prominent minister that baptism should be administered only to individuals who intended to join Baptist churches.

For instance, the association declared at its 1740 annual meeting that baptizing an individual who did not wish to join a Baptist church was "directly destructive to all gospel rule, order, and discipline," according to published minutes of the association.

Washington never sought membership in a Baptist church. Still, John Revell, former pastor of Stamford (Cn.) Baptist Church which Gano helped found, said the congregation has a "longstanding tradition" of the baptism as well as "supporting evidence" in the church's "historical documents."

"When I first arrived as pastor," Revell said in written comments, "I recognized and appreciated the significance of the fact that the founding pastor of Stamford Baptist Church baptized the founding president of the United States. We dare not forget the central and critical role of our leaders' Christian faith in

the birth and early development of our nation."

Barnes concluded in a 1933 article published in the Religious Herald, news journal of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, "Nobody knows for certain nor is it likely that anyone ever will know" whether America's first president was immersed.

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln's baptism tradition is recounted by Wolever based on Lloyd Ostendorf and Walter Oleksy's 1995 book, *Lincoln's Unknown Private Life: An Oral History* by his Black Housekeeper Mariah Vance.

Ostendorf, who died in 2000, was an Ohio artist and Lincoln historian who wrote five books about the former president. Oleksy is a career newspaper reporter and editor, and amateur historian who lives in Glenview, Ill.

Vance testified some 40 years after the fact that Lincoln was immersed in Springfield, Ill., in 1860 when he was president-elect to fulfill a promise to his Baptist mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln before leaving for Washington, D.C.

To conceal the baptism from his wife, who opposed Baptist views and was known to have battled mental health challenges, it was performed at night by German Baptist Brethren minister David Elkins, according to Ostendorf and Oleksy's account.

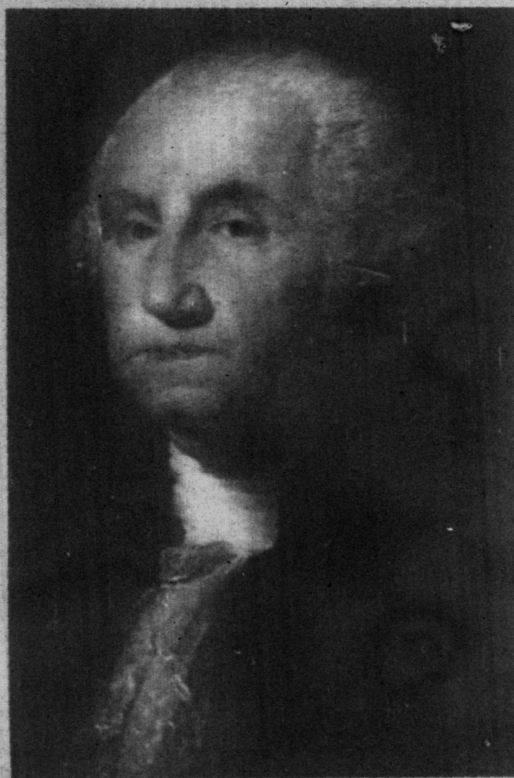
James Murch's 1962 history of the Stone-Campbell movement recounted a story with similar details yet with a minister from his Disciples of Christ denomination supposedly performing the baptism. Murch, an ordained Disciples of Christ minister who died in 1973, noted another account that Lincoln was baptized in Virginia while he was president.

In 1958, Baptist historian Leo Crismon of Kentucky presented a paper to the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky arguing Lincoln had strong connections to Baptists, attending Baptist churches in his formative years though he never joined. Crismon did not, however, mention Lincoln being baptized.

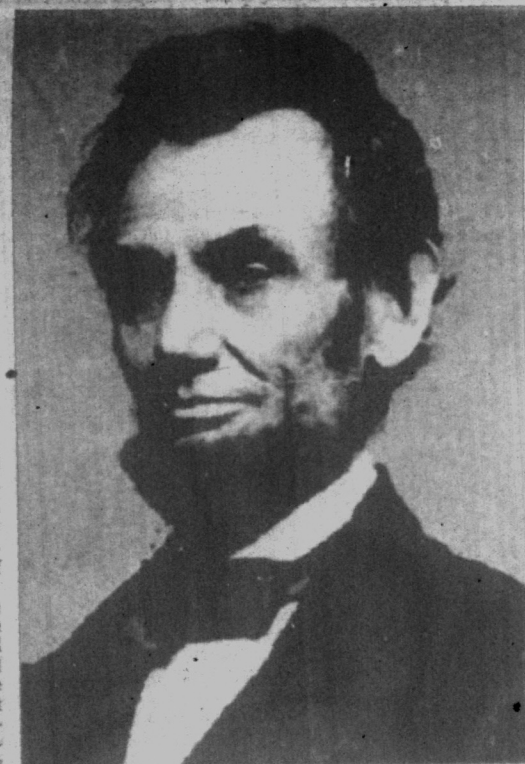
Bill Anderson, a retired Southern Baptist pastor who has read more than 100 books on Lincoln, told BP he has never heard of Lincoln being baptized in Springfield.

The claim about Lincoln being baptized is not inconceivable, said Anderson, who pastored Calvary Church in Clearwater, Fla., for 26 years. Still, "I would bet against" the immersion having occurred "because I have never heard a syllable of it in all the stuff I've read."

Harper agreed. "I don't believe [Lincoln's] baptism story, either," he said in written comments. "He did attend church regularly, though; I'll give him that. Looking beyond the surface, it is significant to note that some people want to believe it. It affords some kind of validity or affirmation [of Baptist views]. That was especially important in the early to mid-19th century."



WASHINGTON



LINCOLN

Here in Mississippi we do not have any mountains. Well, I say that, but there are some that are called mountains that may not really be mountains in the truest sense of the word. Blue Mountain, the home of the Baptist college of the same name, often times takes on an unusual look of being a mountain, even a blue mountain, when the atmospheric conditions are just right and the haze is appropriate. You can imagine that it is a blue mountain, though it is at best a blue hill. The one mountain, the highest point in Mississippi, just over 800 feet above sea level is Mount Woodall up near Iuka but it, too, would not be ranked among the world's great mountain peaks.

For me, growing up in Mississippi, it was a treat when we would load up and travel up to northwest Arkansas to see my grandparents in Fort Smith. There we would get to see what we thought were real mountains. At the time I had never seen the Rockies or the beautiful Smokies, so the foothills of the Ozarks were gigantic to me. As a kid visiting with my grandparents and driving up into the mountains I can remember looking down the road while heading up a mountainside and thinking this is incredible and what a steep incline. My grandmother would often point out to those of us who were flatlanders from Mississippi that the mountain is not as steep as it looks when you get closer to it.

She was right, and time after time we would come to one of those mountain roads that was heading up to the skies only to find when we got there that it was not nearly as steep as it looked from a distance. I have never forgotten either the instructions my grandmother gave me nor the experience we had when we would get closer and closer to the mountain peak only to find that it was not nearly as steep as we thought it would be.

Many a time I have thought that what she taught me in a car traveling into the Ozarks mountainside is true of



With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mountains Ahead

so many things in life. The mountains that seem so huge and unscalable seem to somewhat flatten out when you get closer, and that is a valuable thing to learn. Maybe you are at a point or will face some experience with a mountain in your future that seems to be beyond anything that you will be able to climb and you're not sure what you can do or where to turn.

Let me give you just two or three thoughts about the mountains that may be before you. **One may have to do with stewardship.** It is not unusual to run into someone and be talking to a sincere, growing disciple of Jesus who is struggling with stewardship and the possibility of starting to give to the Lord week after week, 10% the tithe. I can tell you that if you have never tithed, it is not a dollar experience but a faith experience and you will have to trust God for you to take that step of obedience to even begin to tithe.

I know it looks insurmountable, but you can find dozens of people around you that have had the same experience I have had and that is when you take a step of faith in obedience to God's will, He will take a step of amazing, miracle-working events to enable you

to get up the mountain. That's why the Lord says in Malachi 3: *Try Me and trust Me. Do what I ask you to do and watch what I will do for you.* For many people in our churches, stewardship, regular giving — especially obedient giving of the 10% — is almost an unscalable event, but God true to His word will help you. You can do it.

A second area that maybe the Lord is placing before you is the experience of soul winning. The Bible says that he that winneth souls is wise but for many of our folks, solid Christian people they may be, they find it very difficult to share their faith with someone else and seek to win them to the wonderful, life-giving Jesus. It's a mountain whose peak seems to reach into the clouds, but you can do it. If you are faithful to listen to Him as He speaks to you and to obey His voice, you will find that mountain almost evaporates and almost becomes beautiful flatland because God is with you.

Maybe there is someone God has placed on your heart and you have been struggling for days if not weeks as to how you can go about sharing your love for Jesus with them. You can stop struggling because the Lord

is with you. The next opportunity He gives you, just simply let Him lead you and the conversation will wrap itself around their hearts and you can help reach a soul for Jesus.

A third area is one that the Apostle Paul faced and that is with the difficulties of life or suffering. It was Paul's thorn in the flesh that bothered him so much. He asked God, pleaded with God, to take it away on three occasions. God left the thorn with him, but this is what God added, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). What God was saying to Paul is whatever you face is not bigger than My grace. What a comfort and what a challenge for us to stop worrying about climbing the giant mountain called suffering that may be before us.

Everyone suffers to some degree sometimes in life. This was a huge problem for the Apostle Paul and it may be for you even today, but you can lean upon the Lord and while He may not have taken away the problem, the suffering, or the pain, He has come to give amazing and wonderful and sufficient grace. God is never late in delivering His grace but neither is He early. He is on time, ready to bless and embolden you, and give you strength.

Even if you're facing a trial that seems to be a mountain that cannot be scaled, trust God. Realize that He has grace sufficient for what you are going to face, and while He may not take away all the problems, He will put in all the grace you need. Whatever mountains are in your life, sitting out there on the horizon waiting for you to arrive, fine. Trust God. Lean upon His strong arms, seek His face and His grace, and climb on. He waits to carry you up that mountain and by the time the two of you arrive at the top you will think to yourself that wasn't nearly as difficult as you thought it would be, because He is with you.

The author can be contacted at
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College News



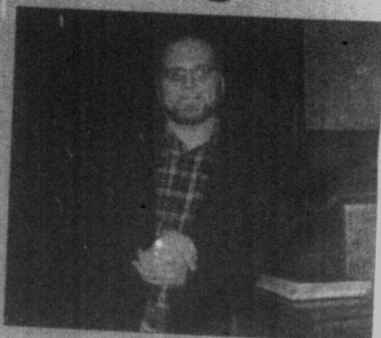
Jackson Preparatory School won the 34th annual Mississippi Academic Competition at MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE Feb. 7. Shown are Mississippi College math professor Tommy Leavelle with Graduate School Dean Debbie Norris, and Jackson Prep students Wesley Roberson, Robert Wasson, Alex Reichle and Lily Garretson, along with longtime quiz bowl judge Dean Parks. Parks is a retired MC chemistry professor. Jackson Prep won for the second year in a row.

In other College News:

► Mississippi College hosted a Career Day Feb. 14. In the Clinton Public School District, 62% of the teachers, administrators, and staff earned degrees at MC. Seventy-six employers staffed rows of tables as job seekers dropped by.

Staff Changes

CONEHATTA CHURCH, NEWTON COUNTY, ASSOCIATION, has called Shannon Davis as pastor. Davis and his wife, Dee Dee, and daughters Brylee and Eden, began their service at the church Feb. 8.



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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

February 23, 2017

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

MISSION >> POSSIBLE

"HE MADE KNOWN
TO US THE MYSTERY
OF HIS WILL"

EPHESIANS 1:9-10

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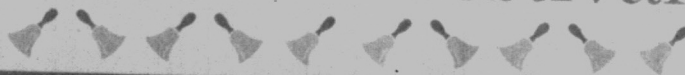


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Michelle Smith, Handbells Clinician

For more information including schedule and registration forms,
call Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 (in town — 601-292-3267).
You can also visit our Web site at www.mbc.org

MBCB CONNECT CAMPS 2017 PRESENTS

STAGES

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Registration begins Feb. 1 @ www.mbcdb.org

Session I - June 5 - 8 | Session II - June 8 - 11 | Session III - June 13 - 16

For Questions Contact: Tasha Presson at 601-292-3284 or tpresson@mbcb.org

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Johnny Flakestraw
Pastor & CPA
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IRS Financial Compliance

SCHEDULE:

Friday
Check in - 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Dinner - 5:30 p.m.
First Session - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
Breakfast - 7-8:00 a.m.
First Session - 8:00 a.m.
Conclusion - 12:30 p.m.

Small Church Youth Ministry Workshops

Workshops begin with supper at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:45.

Monday, March 6
Calvary Baptist Church
Cleveland, MS

Tuesday, March 7
Calvary Baptist Church
Oxford, MS

Thursday, March 9
Monticello Baptist Church
Monticello, MS

These workshops will provide youth ministry training and an opportunity to discuss youth ministry as it relates to the smaller churches and churches that don't employ a full-time paid youth minister. A light supper will also be served to all participants.

For more dates and to register, visit:
mbcb.org/part-time-voluntary-youth-ministers-workshop

Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept - 601-292-3284

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Wednesday, Mississippi College

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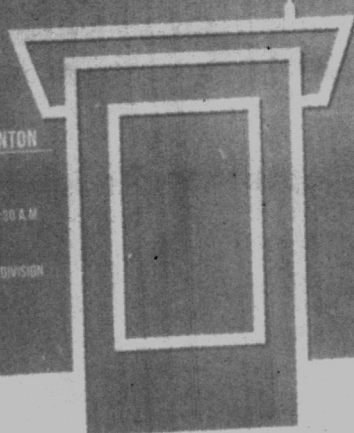
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2017 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, CLINTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

REGISTRATION - 10:00 A.M. TOURNAMENT - 10:30 A.M.

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FOR ALL WOMEN 18 AND BEYOND



FBC, CORINTH

FRI 8:30-9:30 P.M. | SAT 8:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Cost: \$25.00 per person
FOR ALL WOMEN 18 AND BEYOND

RITA SWEATT



SENIOR BIBLE STUDY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SHELLY JOHNSON



AWARD WINNING WOMEN'S ARTIST

DR. CINDY TOWNSEND



FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL FEATURE

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



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MISSISSIPPI'S STORYTELLER

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention WMU/ Women's Ministries of Mississippi
and Hosted by Women's Leadership in South Mississippi



WORKSHOPS & AWARDS BANQUET

March 3 & 4

Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

Awards Banquet on Friday, March 3, 6-9 p.m.

Many categories are available for entry!

Visit mbcb.org/witnessing-through-media or contact
Communication Services at 601-292-3378 for info.

Pray this day for...

February 24 – March 9, 2017

"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudie Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through church planting & evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through Strategy Coordination.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, outreach & evangelism.

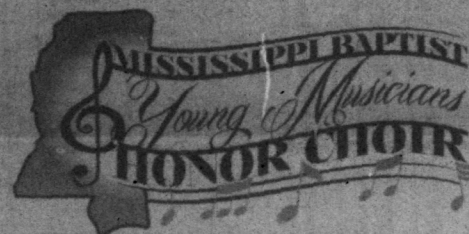
Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & regional office support.



Miss. Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir in concert
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Church Music Department
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GuideStone sees economic uplift from Trump policies

DALLAS (BP) — As the era of U.S. President Donald Trump begins to unfold, his potential impact on financial markets prompted analysis in the first of a new video series released by GuideStone Financial Resources, the financial services arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the series entitled, *Conversations with GuideStone*, the Dallas-based Southern Baptist Convention entity's chief strategic investment officer, David S. Spika, will periodically offer insights for investors about current events and what they can expect in 2017.

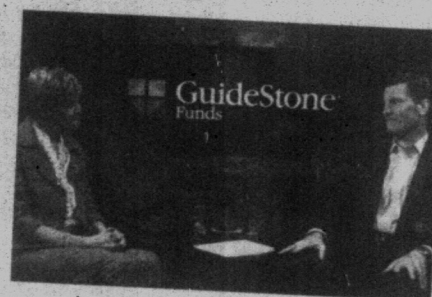
Regarding the possible impact of proposals from the four-week-old Trump administration, Spika noted the expectation of "higher economic stimulus."

"That would include pro-growth tax policies, pro-growth regulatory policies, things that will encourage investors and institutions to spend more," Spika said. "Institutions and individuals don't spend if they're not confident. These sorts of policies should improve confidence, should increase spending, and that will drive economic growth and will drive the market higher over time."

A significant question for all investors is the speed with which the policies can and will be implemented, Spika acknowledged. "The market had a significant rally post-election, and what it was pricing in was the best-case scenario for all of these pro-growth policies occurring."

"To the extent that they don't, and they don't occur as timely as the market would expect, there's likely to be some volatility. Our belief is that it's very unlikely that everything gets passed as quickly or as fully as the market expects."

Spika noted rising interest rates, which the U.S. Federal Reserve System has indicated will happen throughout 2017, will also have an impact on investors.



FUTURE OUTLOOK — Joy Roberts (left), managing director of personal financial services at GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, and David S. Spika, GuideStone chief strategic investment officer, discuss the potential impact of the new administration of U.S. President Donald Trump on financial markets in a video series entitled, *Conversations with GuideStone*. (GuideStone screen grab)

GuideStone Financial Resources president O.S. Hawkins indicated that the new video series is one resource to assist investors and retirement plan participants in their understanding of the markets and the way they respond to current events.

Hawkins stressed that for retirement plan participants, individuals' efforts to try to time the market — also known as day trading — may undermine their long-term financial strategies. "The performance of your retirement account is based on results of the financial markets in the future, not in the past," Hawkins said.

House rescinds last-minute Planned Parenthood edict

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The U.S. House of Representatives on Feb. 16 acted to rescind a two-month-old rule from the Obama administration that effectively restricts states from prohibiting funds for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

The House voted 230-188 for House Joint Resolution 43, which disapproves of the rule and renders it without effect. Representatives took the action under Congress' authority to review federal agency rulemaking — in this case, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Mississippi's Republican Congressmen — Trent Kelly, Gregg Harper, and Steven Palazzo — all voted in the affirmative. Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, voted against it.

Five weeks before former U.S. President Barack Obama left office, HHS issued the rule regarding the Title X program, which provides federal funds to states for family planning and preventive health services.

The HHS rule appears most beneficial to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). In recent years, at least 12 states have cut money for Planned Parenthood, some in the wake of various scandals uncovered regarding the country's No. 1 abortion provider. Courts have blocked those actions in some cases, thereby enabling the organization to continue to receive government funds.

The legislation — passed in a nearly party-line vote with Republicans in the majority —

must gain approval in the U.S. Senate before it can go to U.S. President Donald Trump for his approval.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said in written comments to Baptist Press (BP), "The facts are clear: When states decide to direct federal monies away from the nation's largest abortion provider and toward the funding of community health centers, access to healthcare services increases."

"The federal government has the right to do many things, but forcing states to allocate taxpayer monies in support of abortion is not one of them."

Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life in Washington, D.C., said in a written statement, "States deserve the freedom to choose how and where their taxpayer dollars are spent and they should have the right to prevent taxpayer dollars from supporting abortion providers, particularly when community health centers provide the same services and outnumber abortion clinics."

While opponents of the HHS rule commended the House vote, Planned Parenthood decried it. "Extremists in Congress are trying to make it easier for state politicians to take away people's health care — specifically, the four million people who rely on Title X for birth control and other care," said PPFA President Cecile Richards in a written release.

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DPVOUAOBODA, BOF NZ HPF.

QTBMT GPSUZ-UISAA: GJWA

Clue: F = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 10:13

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

TEXAS

cont. from p. 1

Message reported Feb. 16.

In a text message to Baptist Press, Message editor Will Hall noted he queried Prestonwood Church about its giving to SBC causes after senior pastor Jack Graham told *The Wall Street Journal* in a December interview that the church was "considering making major changes in our support of the Southern Baptist Convention."

At issue, Graham said in the interview, was alleged "disrespectfulness" by Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) president Russell Moore toward evangelical supporters of Republican candidate and eventual winner Donald Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign. Graham is a member of Trump's Evangelical Executive Advisory Board.

Moore, who publicly opposed Trump during the primary and general election cycles, said in a December blog post he never intended to criticize all evangelicals who supported Trump.

Some Southern Baptists have also taken on ERLC for joining a friend of the court brief last May in support of a New Jersey Islamic society's plan to build a mosque in that state.

The International Mission Board (IMB) joined the brief as well, but has since pulled out of the case. IMB President David Platt apologized Feb. 15 for the divisive nature of the IMB action.

Graham, a former SBC president, told Baptist Press (BP) via text message that Prestonwood Church is engaging in "an internal evaluation" of its giving, "and our

"In our fellowship of churches, Prestonwood Baptist Church has been a faithful ministry partner for many years.

We love Jack Graham and his people. It is our hope that these concerns can be resolved in a way that strengthens the kingdom work of Southern Baptists and honors the autonomy of the local church. We stand ready to assist as we have opportunity."

Jim Richards

SBTC executive director

desire is not to seek publicity so we can make the right decision for our church and Southern Baptists."

Asked whether Prestonwood Church also will es-crow funds for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) — the state convention with which it cooperates — Graham responded, "We're evaluating everything."

Graham told the Message he is "not angry at the SBC, and neither are our people, and I'm not working to start a movement to fire anyone." He said he wants Prestonwood Church to remain "a cooperating partner as we have been for many years," but cited "uneasiness" among church leaders about the "disconnect between some of our denominational leaders and our churches."

SBTC executive director Jim Richards told BP in a statement, "In our fellowship of churches, Prestonwood

Baptist Church has been a faithful ministry partner for many years. We love Jack Graham and his people. It is our hope that these concerns can be resolved in a way that strengthens the kingdom work of Southern Baptists and honors the autonomy of the local church. We stand ready to assist as we have opportunity."

ERLC President Russell Moore told BP in a statement, "I love and respect Jack Graham and Prestonwood Baptist Church. This is a faithful church with gifted leaders and a long history of vibrant ministry working and witnessing for Christ."

Bart Barber, pastor of First Church in Farmersville, Texas, who serves on the ERLC's Leadership Council, tweeted following Prestonwood Church's announcement, "I love and appreciate Jack Graham but am an ardent advocate for Religious Liberty and for CP."

"I'm just heartbroken & conflicted," he wrote.

In related news, First Church in Morristown, TN, announced last month it would escrow funds traditionally given through CP over concerns related to ERLC and IMB participation in the New Jersey mosque brief. Pastor Dean Haun resigned as an IMB trustee in November over the brief.

Louisiana Baptist Convention executive director David Hankins and former SBC Executive Committee chairman Bill Harrell, retired pastor of Abilene Church in Martinez, Ga., who has been critical of Moore's leadership, both told *The Wall Street Journal* they know of churches considering a diversion of funds away from ERLC.

PLATT

cont. from p. 1

Latin for "friend of the court" — joined by IMB that supports the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge, N.J., (ISBR) in its religious discrimination lawsuit against a local planning board.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville also joined the brief.

In December, U.S. district Judge Michael Shipp ruled the Planning Board of Bernards Township, N.J., violated federal law when it required the ISBR to include more than twice as much parking space in its site plan for a proposed mosque as it required for local Christian and Jewish houses of worship.

In his ruling Shipp noted the amicus brief joined by IMB and ERLC "supports" the ISBR's arguments that unlawful religious discrimination occurred.

Platt said missions is "what I long for the conversation about the IMB to be focused on, for the sake of those who have never heard."

"I am grieved how the amicus brief in the recent mosque case has been so divisive and distracting, and my purpose in bringing it up here is not to debate religious liberty but to simply say that I really do want IMB to be focused on [its] mission statement."

Platt also said in the future a new process for filing amicus briefs is needed "that will involve my office and our trustees." He pledged to discuss such a policy during a Feb. 28-March 1 IMB trustee meeting.

Platt told BP in a statement last month, "As a result of discussions among IMB trustees and staff over recent months, we have revised our processes for our legal department filing any future amicus briefs."

Dean Haun, pastor of First Church in Morristown, TN, resigned as an IMB trustee in November because he said joining the brief did not comport with IMB's mission and could be viewed as an improper alliance with followers of a religion that denies the Gospel.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG

format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, buildings, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Redeemed and Secure • Ruth 3:8-13; 4:13-17

The book of Ruth is such a sweet story of redemption. The life of an Old Testament widow was one of poverty. Widows often returned to their parents and hoped to remarry. Naomi returned home, but she was too old to look forward to marriage. God blessed Naomi and Ruth by providing a kinsman redeemer, a family member who would redeem them from a life of poverty and struggle. God surprised them and can surprise us with whom He chooses to bring about His purposes.

Inquiry – Ruth 3:8-9

At midnight, Boaz woke up and was startled to find Ruth lying at his feet. Naomi's instructions and Ruth's obedient actions seem very strange to us. What was she doing? Was she trying to trap him or seduce him? No, absolutely not. They were following Israelite customs. Servants often slept at the feet of their masters. When Boaz questioned who was lying at his feet, Ruth identified herself and clarified her purpose of inquiring about Boaz's willingness to fulfill the role of kinsman redeemer. She said, "I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative" (Ruth 3:9, NASB). Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz were persons of integrity and their actions were not inappropriate or seductive in nature.

Interest – Ruth 3:10-13

Boaz stated his willingness to take Ruth as his wife, commending her for her integrity. He said, "I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence" (v. 11). He noted that another potential kinsman redeemer existed who would need to be addressed first. Boaz promised to tend to that issue as soon as the morning arrived.

The city gate was an important part of the town. People gathered there. Vendors sold their goods there. The city gate was also the place where folks transacted business. Boaz went to the city gate and found the close relative. In front of ten of the elders, Boaz talked to the relative about his role as kinsman redeemer. Boaz explained that Naomi had some land to sell. That idea interested the relative. However, he was not interested in marrying Ruth. Therefore, the relative gave up his right as kinsman redeemer. Following an Israelite custom, the relative gave

his sandal to Boaz. This transaction was witnessed by the elders.

Inheritance – Ruth 4:13-17

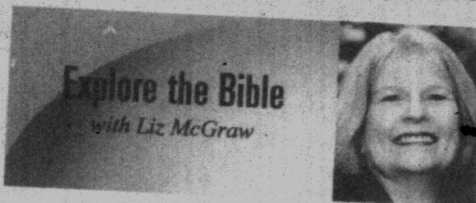
Boaz purchased all that belonged to Elimelech, Chilion, and Mahlon from Naomi. He also took Ruth as his wife. He redeemed Naomi and Ruth from the hardship of being widows. He provided for them by buying the land and marrying Ruth. God blessed them with a son whom they named Obed. The birth

of Obed blessed Naomi and continued the line of Elimelech. The women told Naomi, "Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel. May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him" (vv. 14-15). Naomi was encouraged by the future this son represented.

God used Boaz to be the kinsman redeemer of Naomi and Ruth. God also used the relationship between Boaz and Ruth to continue the lineage of Christ. Obed would be the grandfather of David, Israel's most beloved king, and the lineage of Jesus. Naomi faced an overwhelming tragedy. She lost her husband and two sons. With so much loss, she had a crisis of belief. Remember her words. Upon returning to Bethlehem, she said, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me? (Ruth 1:20-21). She could have given up on God; however, Naomi decided to trust in Him. That trust led to great joy as she held her grandchild Obed in her arms.

The book of Ruth is a story of faith and integrity. From this lesson we learn that living with integrity leads to finding favor with God and others. Believers can face potential obstacles with confidence, knowing that God can use obstacles for His honor. God is always at work, making His redemptive plan known.

McGraw is development director of Crossroads SW Counseling Center, a conference speaker, life coach, and member of Woodville Church.



Explore the Bible
with Liz McGraw

Giving with Joy • Philippians 4:10-20

Last week's lesson from the first part of this last chapter of Philippians said "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4 (HCSB). This week's focal passage begins, "I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that once again you renewed your care for me," Philippians 4:10a (HCSB). We can find several clues to Paul's abundant joy in this passage. But let's look much deeper at Paul's continual life style that leads to rejoicing daily through his faith.

Here is the key to understanding Paul's eternal optimism: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," Philippians 4:13 (KJV). The Layman's Bible Book Commentary Volume 22 written by Malcolm O. Tolbert, a professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC, gives some interesting insights. "It has often been said that Paul's statement in verses 11-12 is very similar to Stoic thought. In verse 13, however, we see the difference between him and the Stoics. They cultivated an attitude of indifference toward the circumstances of life, and their strength was due to their own resources. Paul's strength, however, came as a result of his 'in Christ' relationship. The secret of his contentment in difficult circumstances was Christ."

Many mature Christians claim Philippians 4:13 as their life verse. To the extent these Christ followers are living by Paul's understanding, stressed by Professor Tolbert, that the secret to contentment is Christ, this is a valuable understanding. Paul's "in Christ" relationship or his concept that contentment is Christ, has the same basic truth found in John 14:6 when Jesus says, "I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] life; no one comes

to the Father but through Me," John 14:6 (AMP).

King James quotes Jesus saying, "I am the

way, the truth, and the life." The deepest existential meaning of "the life" is that "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." There is no life except that given by God, Himself. God chooses to give us life by placing our faith in Jesus Christ, thus the introduction to "The Comfort Chapter," "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me," John 14:1

(KJV). The concept here is to believe "the truth" which Jesus plainly claims is Him. Jesus is in very essence the truth, which is the only way to life. This way (Jesus) is the way to the "In Christ" relationship Paul refers to in the fourth chapter of Philippians.

Our focal passage closes with Paul writing, "My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever," Philippians 4:19-20 (HCSB).

There is an underlying practical explanation in this passage about some of the ways God supplies all your needs.

Remember where we started this lesson: "I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that once again you renewed your care for me," Philippians 4:10a (HCSB). Paul acknowledged that it had been hard for the Christians in Philippi to send him tangible help in Rome.

Epaphroditus carried the help from Macedonia to Paul who was in chains in Rome. Paul's gratitude was lavish and

he wrote, "But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God," Philippians 4:18 (HCSB). Paul wanted his readers to understand that God would meet all their needs, as well. "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus," Philippians 4:19 (HCSB). Paul searched for the most extravagant explanation he could find to explain God's generous supply. The extravagant explanation that the Holy Spirit gave Paul was "his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Paul says I was not in despite need but "Still, you did well by sharing with me in my hardship," Philippians 4:14 (HCSB). Paul, appreciatively, remembers that in the early days, the Philippians gave him gifts when no other church did. Then "even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times," Philippians 4:16 (HCSB). In his second letter to the Corinthians Paul stated this basic Christian truth "God loveth a cheerful giver," 2 Corinthians 9:7c.

Hicks is associational missions director for Jäper Association in Bay Springs.



Bible Studies for Life
with Don Hicks

Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, SALTILLO, ordained Cory Flanagin to the gospel ministry Dec. 4. Shown are pastor Ronnie Hatfield, Flanagin, and his wife Cassie.



FAIRVIEW CHURCH, INDIANOLA, ordained James Dawson as deacon, with pastor John T. Burke leading. Dawson's wife Phyllis was present for the service.



The WMU of **HARDY CHURCH, GRENADA**, hosted a widow/widower luncheon Valentine's Day.

In other Church News:

- The Calhoun Association is hosting Tell Someone Evangelism Training Feb. 26, 6 p.m., at Derma Church, led by Don Lum.
- Trinity Church, Laurel, will host Bria a Free and Assurance in concert Feb. 25, 6 p.m. Love offering.

GOLF DAY FOR CAREY

www.carey.edu/day-golf-tornado-recovery



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY



Friday, March 3 - 12 pm

Hattiesburg area's four best golf courses are hosting a golf day to help William Carey University students who lost their computers, textbooks, cars and other belongings due to an EF3 tornado that demolished the campus on Saturday, January 21.

- Shotgun start at 12 pm
- Prizes for top three teams on each course
- Prizes for closest to the hole on each course
- Lunch provided
- Higher sponsorship levels will have priority of choosing a golf course to play on

Champion Corporate Sponsor: Anderson Design Center

Sponsorship Levels:

- Platinum: 4-man team; signage & flag on all courses. \$2500
- Gold: 4-man team; signage on all courses. \$1500
- Silver: 4-man team; sponsor sign on one course. \$750
- Single entry without sponsorship. \$125

Volunteer Opportunities

Due to the scope of the event, we will need volunteers willing to donate their time to make this successful!

If you are interested in being a sponsor, single entry, or volunteering, please contact Dick Vogel at 601-797-1429 or dvogel@wmcarey.edu.

TO ALL MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS:

This is styled as a report to our stockholders. Since the Mississippi Baptist Convention accepted Mississippi Woman's College from the churches of Hattiesburg in 1911, it has been the mission of the school to serve Mississippi Baptists and to provide a quality education for students from Mississippi and beyond. Literally thousands of ministers, missionaries, teachers, music directors, housewives, and laymen have gone out from Carey instilled with Christian values that are taught and modeled by faculty and staff. Our mission continues to be to provide a quality education in a caring Christian environment and to stand firmly on the fidelity to God's Word. May I share a progress report?

Since the tornado ravaged our campus on January 21, we have made remarkable progress on restoration and rebuilding. Many of you have supported this effort. We had over 500 workers on campus last week cleaning and restoring. When the Spring Trimester begins on February 20, seven of our nine residence halls will be available to bring students back to campus. The new addition to the science building will be complete and other repairs to academic buildings will allow us to resume classes with some exceptions; the medical school will continue to operate on the USM campus and some other departments will be housed in churches in Hattiesburg.

We have taken a step of faith and made the decision to decline all federal funds. Accepting federal funds would tie us up in governmental red tape and delay recovery by months, perhaps years. The most important reason for our rejection of federal funds, however, is the limitations on our ability to operate as a Christian institution free from governmental restrictions. Having made this decision, we are trusting individuals and churches to help us make up the gap between our insurance coverage and actual costs of rebuilding. We have good insurance coverage but only damage directly connected to the insured buildings will be covered. Some cleanup and other necessary expenses, as well as the insurance deductible must be borne by Carey. This could run into several million dollars. Insurance never covers everything. We are trusting the Lord and the generosity of His people and churches to make up the difference.

With the devastation of the neighborhood surrounding Carey there will be opportunities to secure neighboring property. Donations to the property acquisition fund will serve a double ministry, it will provide funds to the people to help them rebuild elsewhere and it will allow Carey to secure property that will serve as a buffer zone as well as land for future growth. I am praying that God will lead individuals to contribute to this fund.

Your financial support, prayers and referral of prospective students will make all the difference for the future of Carey. With William Carey we "expect great things from God" and will "attempt great things for God."

God bless,
Tommy King, President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT